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AFGHANISTAN

SUCCESS STORY

Emerging Leader Steps up for Future Success

Youth are positively influenced by the Emerging Civil Society Leaders' Program through gaining knowledge for the future improvement and dialogue.



By Adiba Sadri

Elaha, during participation in the Public Speaking Skill training in Kabul in June 2015

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Traditionally, Afghan youth haven't had a voice in the public decision making process due to cultural norms that defer this task to older generations.

The Emerging Civil Society Leaders 2015 Program supported by USAID through its Afghan Civic Engagement Program (ACEP) seeks to engage youth in civil society and has identified 34 young women and men from across Afghanistan to participate.

Youth make up 65 percent of Afghanistan's population and they require training and skill development across social and political realms.

The Emerging Civil Society Leaders' Program is strengthening the skills of young men and women – who are even more at a disadvantage in having a voice in society – from across Afghanistan through different civic education programs. In a recent training conducted in June, 2015 in Kabul, under the theme of *Public Speaking Skills*, participants were trained to develop their skills on how to practice and deliver speaking in front of an audience.

Elaha Danishwar, from Herat, is currently enrolled in the 2015 program, learned how to hone public speaking skills. Elaha was later invited by the *World Green Educational Association* in Herat to conduct a similar training for the organization's members. Elaha passed along her knowledge and skills to 12 men and 18 women.

Elaha was thrilled when she was offered a position of Training Facilitator with *Afghan Women Educational Center*, a local Herat based organization working for gender and women capacity development.

“I don't know how to thank USAID and the ACEP Program for their great support to Afghan youth,” she said. “Of course, their program enabled me to feel that I have future influence at the community level on different social and political issues.”